

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, December 6, 2010

The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room C

The following members were present:

Alex Berger
Ira Berkowitz
Brad Bernstein
Mimi Deem
Marguerite Garrick

Jessie Hoagland
Omri Praiss
Rosemary Hardy
Mark Winings

Excused/Absent

Judy Goodman
Eric Schneider

Also present:

Patty DeForrest
Eric Gruenenfelder

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the November 1 meeting were approved as read.

Addresses from the Audience: Ms. DeForrest began the discussion about the City of Clayton's naming policy. The process of renaming Bi-Centennial Garden begins with the Commission. In 1976 the area between Shaw Park Aquatic Center and Ice Rink was named in honor of our country's 200th Anniversary. There are few references to it in minutes, but there is not a plaque referencing the name.

Ms. Bev Wagner from the Clayton Century Foundation (CCF) Art Section addressed the audience requesting Bi-Centennial Garden be renamed Century Garden, and tie the renaming into the 2013 centennial of the City. Ms. Wagner informed the Commission about a fundraising project to obtain a major art piece for the area. The major piece of art would cost \$300,000 to \$500,000. The CCF Art Section is conducting a call for invitations for the art, and it is referenced as site specific unless there is a rare case where an artist already has an art piece which would be appropriate for the garden. Mr. Praiss mentioned his concern about raising the money for this project. Ms. Wagner stated that the CCF has chosen this as their first major project, and CCF- Arts is aware of the undertaking of raising these funds. CCF - Arts is also considering corporate naming rights for the art piece.

Mr. Praiss made a motion to rename Bi-Centennial Garden to Century Garden. Ms. Garrick seconded the motion and all were in favor. This recommendation will move forward to the BOA for approval, and the Commission will be involved in the art selection.

Ms. Wagner stated that she and Ms. DeForrest visited local artist Ms. Carol Fleming's studio and believed her art is very friendly. Ms. Fleming's art pieces include: totem pole and ceramic eggs. One of her three feet tall eggs is going to be in the sensory garden.

Director's Report: Shaw Park Monument Signs: The monument signs will be located on each end of Shaw Park. Ms. DeForrest showed the most recent designs to the Commission, and they provided their feedback about the signage. Ms. Deem stated that these designs are getting closer to what the Commission would like to have in Shaw Park.

Upcoming Activities: Ms. DeForrest informed the Commission about carriage rides on Thursdays during the month of December, Candlelight Holiday Tours at the Hanley House, and the New Year's Eve event at the Ice Rink. Commission members said Skate with Frosty and All that Glitters were excellent, well-attended events.

Annual Reports:

-Scorecard Measures: The City's Vision 2013 Guiding Principle IV is based on recreation and culture, with the goal in mind of performance scorecard measures developed in 2008. The seven performance scorecard measures from FY07-FY10 were reviewed, as well as, the FY11 goals. Percentage rates are based on national survey questions so results can be compared to national data. The selection of survey questions is based on comparable data from other high functioning communities. The City Manager, Parks and Recreation Director and staff had input on what types of things would be evaluated.

-Year End Budget Review: The total number of annual program participants has been measured since FY07, and the cost per participant has been measured since FY08. The total number of program participants has remained steady for the last four years. The Parks and Recreation Department is spending less money per participant because our classes are filling and we are running popular programs. For every resident, the City is making more than it is paying out. The acres of properly maintained parkland per \$1,000 is a performance measure the department began measuring in FY09. Ms. DeForrest and Ms. Renard conduct the park inspections, and are working on improving percentages. Currently the department is below the national standard because our cost to maintain the parks is \$9,000 per acre. There was a decrease in revenue in FY09 to FY10 for general programming / special events. The goal in these accounts is to cover expenses, and this goal was met both years. Shaw Park Aquatic Center revenue increased 22% from FY09 due to increases in season pass sales and daily admissions. Shaw Park Concessions continues to perform consistently, and revenue and expenditures are similar to FY09. Shaw Park Ice Rink had a 24% increase in FY10 due to an increase in rental revenue; however there was an increase in expenditures due to additional maintenance costs. Hanley House revenue is down slightly from FY09, but expenditures remain steady. Shaw Park Tennis Center revenue decreased in FY10 due to a 31% decrease in programming revenue, particularly in adult programming and specialty camps. Sport league revenue increased by 6% from FY09 because the addition of fields #1 and #2 gave staff the ability to expand youth and adult leagues. Fitness revenue for the City is from Boot Camp in Shaw Park. Revenue for this program decreased slightly from FY09 to FY10, and expenditures decreased accordingly. Park Maintenance expenditures had a 3% savings from the FY10 estimated budget due to savings in personnel costs and utilities.

-Year End Capital Budget Review: There was a decrease in Fund 70 revenue due to the timing of grant reimbursement for the Inclusion Playground, which will be received in FY11. There was also a decrease in expenditures due to savings on several projects, carryover of projects (such as the Oak Knoll parking lot project) and final payment for the Inclusion Playground.

The following FY10 Project Summaries were reviewed: Shaw Park Tree Top Playground, Oak Knoll Trail and the Field #1 & #2 Project. Shaw Park Tree Top Playground was funded by two grants, two donations and the City of Clayton. The Oak Knoll Trail Project was a project that needed to be completed because the existing trail was over 40 years old. Field #1 and #2 project increased the number of recreation leagues, which increased revenue. FY10 projects summary details were reviewed; individual costs for these projects are provided on page 9 of the Budget Summary PowerPoint.

FY11 Budget Clarifications – Capital Improvements Fund: FY11 is the first year the City will be combining The Revolving Public Improvement Fund, used for Public Works projects and the Recreation & Stormwater Fund into one Capital Improvements Fund. In FY11 \$331,900 has been included in the General Fund that previously was included in the Rec and Stormwater Fund; administration, park maintenance, ice rink and Hanley House are accounts now included in this fund.

Capital projects set to be completed this year are: repainting the outdoor pool, and the Taylor Park resurfacing project.

Old Business / New Business: Mr. Berger stated that staff in the fitness center is doing a good job of keeping equipment and the floor clean. He also mentioned some items in The Center are a distraction such as lights out, clocks that are inaccurate, and the area behind the basketball back boards (visible from the fitness center) are very dusty.

There were 525 patrons at the ice rink on opening day, which is 50% more than last year.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Denise Ucinski